

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An absorbent article comprising:
a stretchable substrate; and
an absorbent composite comprising a layer of adhesive composition in contact with the stretchable substrate and a layer of particulate superabsorbent material applied to and held by the adhesive composition, the absorbent composite being secured to the substrate by the adhesive composition, the absorbent article being stretchable, the layer of particulate superabsorbent material remaining secured to the substrate by said adhesive upon stretching of the absorbent article.

2. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the stretchable substrate is a first stretchable substrate, the absorbent article further comprising a second stretchable substrate in generally superposed relationship with the first stretchable substrate whereby the absorbent composite is disposed between said first and second stretchable substrates.

3. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the layer of adhesive composition is a first layer of adhesive composition, the absorbent article further comprising a second layer of adhesive composition applied to the layer of particulate superabsorbent material.

4. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 3 wherein the stretchable substrate is a first stretchable substrate, the absorbent article further comprising a second stretchable substrate in generally superposed relationship with the first stretchable substrate and secured to the second layer of adhesive composition to thereby secure the absorbent composite to said second stretchable substrate.

5. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the adhesive composition comprises a hot-melt adhesive.

6. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the adhesive composition has a viscosity of less than about 10,000 centipoises at a temperature of less than or equal to about 400 degrees Fahrenheit (about 204 degrees Celsius).

7. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 6 wherein the adhesive composition has a viscosity of less than about 10,000 centipoises at a temperature of less than or equal to about 300 degrees Fahrenheit (about 149 degrees Celsius).

8. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 7 wherein the adhesive composition has a viscosity of less than about 10,000 centipoises at a temperature of less than or equal to about 250 degrees Fahrenheit (about 121 degrees Celsius).

9. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 6 wherein the adhesive composition has a viscosity in the range of about 1,000 to about 8,000 centipoises at a temperature of about 300 degrees Fahrenheit (about 149 degrees Celsius).

10. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 9 wherein the adhesive composition has a viscosity in the range of about 2,000 to about 6,000 centipoises at a temperature of about 300 degrees Fahrenheit (about 149 degrees Celsius).

11. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the adhesive composition has a storage modulus (G') of less than or equal to about 1.0×10^7 dyne/cm² at 25 degrees Celsius.

12. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 11 wherein the adhesive composition has a storage modulus (G') in the range of about 1.0×10^5 to about 1.0×10^6 dyne/cm² at 25 degrees Celsius.

13. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 6 wherein the adhesive composition has a storage modulus (G') of less than about 1.0×10^7 dyne/cm² at 25 degrees Celsius.

14. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 13 wherein the adhesive composition has a storage modulus (G') in the range of about 1.0×10^5 to about 1.0×10^6 dyne/cm² at 25 degrees Celsius.

15. (Withdrawn) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the adhesive composition has a glass transition temperature (T_g) in the range of about -25 degrees Celsius to about 25 degrees Celsius.

16. (Withdrawn) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 15 wherein the adhesive composition has a glass

transition temperature (Tg) in the range of about -10 degrees Celsius to about 25 degrees Celsius.

17. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent composite further comprises hydrophilic fibers.

18. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent composite has a width and a length, said absorbent composite having a non-uniform basis weight across at least a portion of at least one of the width and the length of said absorbent composite.

19. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the stretchable substrate is elastic.

20. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the stretchable substrate defines an outer cover of the absorbent article, the absorbent article further comprising a liquid permeable liner in generally superposed relationship with the outer cover and adapted for contiguous relationship with the wearer's skin, the absorbent composite being disposed between the liner and the outer cover.

21. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the layer of adhesive composition is a first layer of adhesive composition and the layer of particulate superabsorbent material is a first layer of particulate superabsorbent material, the absorbent article further comprising a second layer of adhesive composition applied to the first layer of particulate superabsorbent material, the second layer of particulate superabsorbent material being

applied to and held by the second layer of adhesive composition.

22. (Withdrawn) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the adhesive composition is hydrophilic.

23. (Withdrawn) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the adhesive composition is hydrophobic.

24. (Withdrawn) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent article has a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the substrate having a recovery in at least one of the lateral direction and the longitudinal direction of the article as determined by a Elongation and Recovery Test, the absorbent article having a recovery in said at least one of the lateral direction and the longitudinal direction as determined by the Elongation and Recovery Test that is at least about 60 percent of the recovery of the substrate in said at least one of the lateral direction and the longitudinal direction.

25. (Withdrawn) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 24 wherein the absorbent article has a recovery in said at least one of the lateral direction and the longitudinal direction as determined by the Elongation and Recovery Test that is at least about 80 percent of the recovery of the substrate in said at least one of the lateral direction and the longitudinal direction.

26. (Withdrawn) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 25 wherein the absorbent article has a recovery in said at least one of the lateral direction and the longitudinal

direction as determined by the Elongation and Recovery Test that is at least about 90 percent of the recovery of the substrate in said at least one of the lateral direction and the longitudinal direction.

27. (Withdrawn) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 24 wherein the substrate has a recovery in each of the lateral direction and the longitudinal direction, the absorbent article having a recovery in each of said lateral direction and the longitudinal direction as determined by the Elongation and Recovery Test that is at least about 60 percent of the recovery of the substrate in the corresponding lateral direction and longitudinal direction.

28. (Withdrawn) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 27 wherein the absorbent article has a recovery in each of said lateral direction and the longitudinal direction as determined by the Elongation and Recovery Test that is at least about 80 percent of the recovery of the substrate in the corresponding lateral direction and longitudinal direction.

29. (Withdrawn) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 28 wherein the absorbent article has a recovery in each of said lateral direction and the longitudinal direction as determined by the Elongation and Recovery Test that is at least about 90 percent of the recovery of the substrate in the corresponding lateral direction and longitudinal direction.

30-113. Cancelled.

114. (New) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the adhesive composition comprises at least one

tackifier, said at least one tackifier comprising about 30 to about 65 percent by weight of the adhesive composition.